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### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

"AMY," "ERIKA," JANE SMITH, as next of friend for "TORI," minor, "JENNY," and "JESSICA," "LILY," "SARAH," JOHN DOE as court appointed conservator for "SIERRA," and "SALLY," minors, JANE DOE as court appointed conservator for "SKYLAR" and "SAVANNAH," minors, "MAUREEN," WILLIAM L.E DUSSAULT as Guardian ad Litem for "VIOLET," minor, JANE ROE, as next of friend for "PIA," and "MYA," minors,

Plaintiffs,

Case No: 3:19-CV-02184

**COMPLAINT** 

Jury Trial Demanded

V.

RANDALL STEVEN CURTIS.

Defendant.

The Plaintiffs, on their own behalf and by their corresponding next friends as indicated, and through their attorneys of record John A. Kawai of Carpenter, Zuckerman & Rowley, Carol L. Hepburn of Carol L. Hepburn P.S., and Deborah A. Bianco of Deborah A. Bianco, PLLC allege for their complaint as follows:

#### NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. This is a suit for damages arising out of the Defendant's violations of federal criminal child pornography statutes 18 U.S.C. § 2252 (a)(4)(B).
- 2. 18 U.S.C. § 2255(a) allows victims of child pornography under section 2252 to recover the actual damages such person sustains or liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000, and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred. The Court may also award punitive damages and grant such other preliminary and equitable relief as the Court determines to be appropriate.

#### **PARTIES**

- 3. "Amy" is currently an adult and resides outside of the state of California.
- 4. "Amy" is a pseudonym for the victim depicted in the Misty child pornography series.
  - 5. "Erika" is currently an adult and resides outside the state of California.
- 6. "Erika" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in PinkHeartSisters child pornography series.

- 7. Jane Smith is a pseudonym for "Tori's" mother and acts as Next Friend for Tori who is a minor and resides outside the state of California.
- 8. "Tori" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in PinkHeartSisters child pornography series.
  - 9. "Jenny" is currently an adult and resides outside the state of California.
  - 10. "Jenny" is a pseudonym for the victim of the Jenny child pornography series.
  - 11. "Jessica" is currently an adult and resides outside the state of California.
  - 12. "Jessica" is a pseudonym for the victim of the Jessica child pornography series.
  - 13. "Lily" is currently an adult and resides outside the state of California.
- 14. "Lily" is the pseudonym for the victim depicted in the Vicky child pornography series.
  - 15. "Sarah" is currently an adult and resides outside the state of California.
- 16. "Sarah" is the pseudonym for the victim depicted in the Marineland child pornography series.
- 17. Jane Doe is a pseudonym for "Skylar" and "Savannah's" mother and was appointed by her local court as conservator for "Skylar" and "Savannah" who are minors and reside outside the state of California.
- 18. "Skylar" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Jan\_Socks child pornography series.
- 19. "Savannah" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Jan\_Socks child pornography series.

- 20. John Doe is a pseudonym for "Sally" and "Sierra's" father and was appointed by his local court as conservator for "Sally" and "Sierra" who are minors and reside outside the state of California.
- 21. "Sally" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Jan\_Socks child pornography series.
- 22. "Sierra" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Jan\_Socks child pornography series.
  - 23. "Maureen" is currently an adult and resides outside the state of California.
- 24. "Maureen" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Lighthouse child pornography series.
- 25. William L.E. Dussault is an attorney licensed in the States of Washington and Colorado and has been appointed Guardian ad Litem for "Violet" who is a minor and resides outside of California.
- 26. "Violet" is a pseudonym for the victim depicted in the At School child pornography series.
- 27. Jane Roe is a pseudonym for "Pia," "Mya," and "Ava's" mother and acts as Next Friend for "Pia," "Mya," and "Ava" who are minors and reside outside the state of California.
- 28. "Pia" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Sweet Sugar child pornography series.
- 29. "Mya" is a pseudonym for a victim depicted in the Sweet Sugar child pornography series.
- 30. The defendant is an adult currently in the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons.

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31. On information and belief, the defendant resided in this district prior to his incarceration.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 32. Federal subject matter jurisdiction is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this is a civil action arising under 18 U.S.C. § 2255.
- 33. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (2) because (i) this is a civil action brought in the judicial district where the Defendant resides and (ii) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this judicial district.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Amy in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 34. Amy was eight and nine years old when she was repeatedly raped and sexually exploited by an adult male in order to produce child pornography. The child sex abuse images and videos of her memorialize Amy being forced to endure rape, cunnilingus, fellatio, and digital penetration as a young child. Amy was sexually abused specifically for the purpose of producing child pornography to share on the Internet.
- 35. Images and videos of Amy have been and continue to be widely circulated on the Internet and are known as the "Misty" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 36. Amy has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and

future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial in this matter.

### The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Erika and Tori in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 37. When Erika and Tori were young girls, they were repeatedly raped and sexually assaulted by an adult male in order to produce child pornography. The adult male would travel to different states with Erika and Tori in order to allow other adult men to sexually abuse them and produce child pornography. The sexual abuse of Erika and Tori was digitized for distribution on the Internet.
- 38. Images and videos of Erika and Tori have been and continue to be widely circulated on the Internet and are known as the "PinkHeartSisters" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 39. Erika and Tori have suffered and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of their child pornography by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm they have proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with their normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial in this matter.

# The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Jenny in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

40. From approximately age six to eight years old, Jenny was sexually molested and assaulted by an adult man. Jenny was repeatedly raped and forced to perform fellatio on an adult

man. Jenny was also bound and forced to perform sexual acts with an animal. The abuser forced Jenny to watch child pornography in order to groom her for sexual exploitation. The sexual abuse of Jenny was digitized for distribution on the Internet.

- 41. Images and videos of Jenny have been and continue to be widely circulated on the Internet and are known as the "Jenny" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 42. Jenny has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial in this matter.

# The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Jessica in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

43. The Jessica series shows Jessica from infancy until approximately four years old being sodomized, subjected to oral sex, and otherwise sexually abused and exploited by one or more adult men. The unending collection and trading of her child sex abuse images has caused Jessica long-lasting and permanent harm. Unlike victims of time-limited trauma, victims of child pornography are aware that their child sex abuse images will never cease to exist. Rather, Jessica has been and will be repeatedly re-victimized by the individuals like the Defendant who possess, trade, and/or distribute her child sex abuse images.

- 44. Images and videos of Jessica have been and continue to be widely circulated on the Internet and are known as the "Jessica" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 45. Jessica has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial in this matter.

# The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Lily in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 46. When Lily was ten and eleven years old, or younger, she was forced to perform sexual acts primarily for the purpose of producing child pornography images and videos.
- 47. These images and videos are distributed over the Internet and are known as the "Vicky" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 48. On information and belief, these images and videos depict Lily as a prepubescent minor child being raped, sodomized, put in bondage, and forced to perform scripted sex acts with an adult male. They are images and videos depicting child rape and sexual exploitation.
- 49. These images and videos of Lily childhood sexual abuse are widely traded—by barter and commercial transaction—over the internet. The never-ending circulation of this material keeps Lily's original abuse constantly alive and present for her in everyday life. If her child pornography images were not possessed and circulated by others, Lily might have been

able to obtain the treatment necessary to overcome the damage caused by her original childhood sexual abuse and live a normal life.

50. Lily has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial of this matter.

### The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Lily in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 51. Sarah was groomed for sexual exploitation from the time she was five years old. From that age until age eleven, she was raped, forced to have sex with an adult male and with other female children her age, forced to have sexual encounters with an animal, and made to pose and dance provocatively for the camera. Sarah was required to perform these sex acts in front of a web cam which recorded the events and broadcasted her sexual exploitation to another adult who was watching from a remote location. The sexual acts performed by Sarah were digitized for distribution on the internet.
- 52. Images and videos of Sarah have been and continue to be widely circulated on the internet and are known as the "Marineland" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 53. Sarah has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and

permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial of this matter.

## The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Skylar, Savannah, Sally, and Sierra in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 54. Skylar, Savannah, Sally, and Sierra, minor females, were forced from a young age over an extended period of time to have sexual encounters with an adult male. These sexual acts were photographed and videoed for purposes of distribution over the internet.
- 55. Images and videos of Skylar, Savannah, Sally, and Sierra have been and continue to be widely circulated on the internet and are known as the "Jan\_Socks" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 56. Skylar, Savannah, Sally, and Sierra have been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting them by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm they have proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with their normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial of this matter.

# The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Maureen in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 57. From the time Maureen was a toddler until she was approximately 8 years old she was raped, sodomized, and forced to endure sexual assaults by an unrelated adult male who required Maureen to perform sex acts which he videotaped and shared with others, taking requests from others and forcing Maureen to perform the requests made by third parties.
- 58. Images and videos of Maureen have been and continue to be widely circulated on the internet and are known as the "Lighthouse" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 59. Maureen has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial of this matter.

### The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Violet in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 60. Violet, a minor female, was forced from a young age over an extended period of time to have sexual encounters with an adult male. These sexual acts were photographed and videoed for purposes of distribution over the Internet.
- 61. Images and videos of Violet have been and continue to be widely circulated on the Internet and are known as the "At School" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).

62. Violet has been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting her by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm she has proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with her normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial of this matter.

## The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Depicting Pia and Mya in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

- 63. Pia and Mya, minor females, were groomed from a young age over an extended period of time to have sexual encounters with an adult male. These sexual acts were photographed and videoed for purposes of distribution over the Internet. The images show the children engaging in provocative and sexualized behaviors, as well as sex acts.
- 64. Images and videos of Pia and Mya have been and continue to be widely circulated on the Internet and are known as the "Sweet Sugar" child pornography series. These images and videos constitute child pornography within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).
- 65. Pia and Mya have been and will continue to suffer personal injury by the distribution and possession of child pornography depicting them by persons including the Defendant. The permanent harm they have proximately suffered includes but is not limited to extreme and permanent emotional distress with physical manifestations, interference with their normal development and educational progress, lifelong loss of income earning capacity, loss of past and future wages, past and future expenses for medical and psychological treatment, loss of enjoyment of life, and other losses to be described and proven at trial of this matter.

#### The Defendant Possessed Child Pornography Images and Videos of Plaintiffs

- 66. On September 6, 2016, the Defendant was indicted in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California for knowingly possessing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B) and transportation of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(1).
- 67. Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) analysts at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) matched child pornography images on the Defendant's computer to child pornography images of Plaintiffs in NCMEC's database and notified the government of its findings in a CVIP report.
- 68. Upon information and belief, this CVIP report was supplied to the Defendant's criminal defense attorney.
- 69. On March 14, 2017 Plaintiffs first received notice of their images having been among those possessed by Defendant.
- 70. On July 13, 2017, Defendant pled guilty to all counts of the indictment and was sentenced on November 3, 2017.
- 71. In the criminal case, the Defendant and Plaintiffs entered into a stipulation regarding restitution. The Defendant agreed to pay restitution in the amount of \$500 to Violet, \$500 to Savannah, \$500 to Sally, \$2,000 to Skylar, \$2,000 to Sierra, \$1,000 to Erika, \$1,000 to Tori, \$3,000 to Jenny, and \$500 to Jessica.

#### THE PLAINTIFFS' RIGHT TO PROCEED UNDER A PSEUDONYM

- 72. Concomitant with this complaint, the Plaintiffs have moved for permission to proceed in this case using pseudonyms in accordance with the applicable law in this Circuit.
- 73. According to *Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.*, 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2000), "a party may preserve his or her anonymity in judicial proceedings in special

circumstances when the party's need for anonymity outweighs prejudice to the opposing party and the public's interest in knowing the party's identity."

74. As outlined in their Motion to Proceed Under a Pseudonym, the Plaintiffs' need for anonymity outweighs any prejudice to the Defendant or the public's interest in knowing their identity.

### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF 18 U.S.C. § 2255(a)

- 75. The Plaintiffs repeat and re–allege all prior paragraphs.
- 76. 18 U.S.C. § 2255, entitled "Civil Remedy for Personal Injuries," provides that any person who is a victim of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B) and who suffers personal injury as a result of such violation shall recover the actual damages such person sustains or liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000, and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.
- 77. The Defendant pleaded guilty of violating the federal child pornography crime found at 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B).
  - 78. 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B) provides that any person commits a federal crime who:
    - knowingly possesses, or knowingly accesses with intent to view, 1 or more books, magazines, periodicals, films, video tapes, or other matter which contain any visual depiction that has been mailed, or has been shipped or transported using any means or facility of interstate commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or which was produced using material which have been mailed or so shipped or transported, by any means including by computer, if (i) the producing of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; and (ii) such visual depiction is of such conduct
- 79. The Defendant pleaded guilty to knowingly possessing material containing images of the Plaintiffs' child pornography in violation of federal child pornography laws.

- 80. The Plaintiffs suffered personal injury as a result of the Defendant's violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B).
- 81. The Plaintiffs are electing liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000 each and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred, prejudgment and post-judgment interest, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

#### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs each request judgment against the Defendant as follows:

- 82. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000 each pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2255(a);
- 83. Punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish the Defendant and deter others from like conduct pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2255(a) and the common law;
  - 84. Reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2255(a);
  - 85. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- 86. Such other preliminary and equitable relief as the Court determines to be appropriate pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2255(a);
- 87. Any relief within the Court's jurisdiction appropriate to the proof, whether or not demanded; and
- 88. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

  Dated this 23rd day of April, 2019.

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